



**U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson and Bob Corker
of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

Transcript of Remarks to the Media Following a Meeting at the
Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on May 25, 2009

SUDANESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DENG ALOR

We had a meeting, and the meeting addressed three pivotal issues. The first one was Darfur, the second was the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and third was the bilateral relations between Sudan and the United States and how we can better this relationship.

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

Good Morning. I am Senator Isakson from Georgia, and this is Senator Corker from Tennessee. We are both members of the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate. We know Senator Kerry, who is the Chairman of that committee, was here about three weeks ago. And we came to follow up on that visit, to meet with leaders in the government, to discuss ways and places of common ground between the government of the United States and the government of Sudan. Primary in those two focuses is, number one, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which the United States helped -- in cooperation with the South and the North -- to forge. And secondly, is the situation in Darfur, where we will go tomorrow, to try and see first-hand the situation and the conditions there. The people of our country are very concerned for the people of Darfur, and we look forward to working with the Sudanese government for improvements in that region.

SENATOR BOB CORKER

My name is Bob Corker. I very much appreciate the Sudanese government arranging the meetings that they have for us here. I think all of us would like to see progress made on peace, both between the North and South, and in Darfur. Our being here allows us to understand the issues as they really are -- not as *reported* -- but as they really are. And we look forward, of course, to tomorrow, and to the rest of the day and going back to our country and engaging others in constructive ways so that proper relations are established and in an effort to have peace allowance come here. And again, we thank all those who are cooperating with us on our trip. We are hoping that our NGOs will be back at full capacity in the very near future and that the humanitarian side -- the urgent [issue] today -- can be dealt with in a more full way here on the ground.

BBC ARABIC

Q: What will come out of this visit with regard to U.S. foreign policy toward Sudan?

Senate Bob Corker: We can't speak on new policies for Sudan, on behalf of our entire government. We are two Senators. I think that, though, there hasn't been a great deal of interaction between Congress and Sudan. So, I would say the first step is that you see two senators here. We had another senator here a month ago. I think you are going to see, first of all, a much greater dialogue taking place between the bodies to try to solve these problems together.

For further information, please contact the U.S.
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Senator Johnny Isakson: I think it is important to understand that changes will always be predicated on accomplishments. As we said at the outset, our reason for coming is because of our interest in the CPA -- the Comprehensive Peace Agreement -- and the condition in Darfur. As we understand better, both the challenges and the hurdles, and the Sudanese government sets the goals, goals are achieved. You build upon a foundation to expand the relationship.

And let me thank the Foreign Minister for the outstanding hospitality.

Thank you very much.

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